

## OLD MAN GAVVY CRAVATH IS SKIDDING SO FAST HE'S BACKING INTO TOPNOTCHERS' CLASS

### NINETEEN ASSISTS ASSIST CRAVATH IN GAINING NEW FAME

Cunning Californian Trapped Many Runners With Throwing Arm Supposed to Be Throwed Out: Led Only by Carey and Flack in 1918

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL  
Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger

CHARLES CLIFFORD CRAVATH, our slugging outfielder, who will do some right fielding for Jack Coombs this year, stood out like a corn on the ear in the official fielding averages issued by the National League today. The veteran did some great work in the short field and proved his throwing arm still was in good shape by amassing a total of nineteen assists for the abbreviated season. Max Carey led with twenty-five and Max Flack, of the Cubs, was second with twenty. Thus Cravath still ranks with the top-notchers.

It is a treat to see Gavy when he is working on all cylinders. He is a very fox person and puts over some stuff that even fools the wise ones. Time and again he has converted a single into a force-out by making a bluff as if to catch the ball, hold the runner on first and then toss him out after getting the sphere on the first bounce. He also knew every angle on the right-field fence, and seldom were extra bases made on long clouts in that direction.

Gavy's most famous play was in 1917 when he bamboozled the Cubs out of a perfectly good ball game. Three men were on base two out and the batter soaked a line drive to right field. There wasn't a chance in a million to make the catch, but Cravath tore in and before the ball dropped stopped suddenly with both hands out, apparently set to grab the flying pellet. Larry Doyle, who was on third, ran back to the base and Gavy forced him at the plate after getting the ball on the second bounce.

The California clout is quite a gate attraction because of his healthy wallop, which are likely to bust up a game at any time, and the long-distance hitting record he has made. In his big league career he has whacked 165 home runs, made 1648 hits for a total of 1726 bases and has a grand average of .331. That's pretty good for a guy supposed to be on the skids.

Gavy, however, has a better one than that to his credit. He has made two home runs in games more often than any other player in the National League. He made the brace of circuits in six games, off Hess and Dickson, of Boston, and Barger, of Brooklyn, in 1912; Brown, of Cincinnati, in 1913; Lavender, of Chicago, and Marquard, of New York, in 1914, and off Hendrix and Vaughn, of Chicago, in 1916.

OTHER Phils have gained fame with two jolting drives, Fred Luderus accomplishing the feat three times, off Purdie, Boston; Lavender and Moore, Chicago, and Harmon, of Pittsburgh. Fred Williams homered twice, slamming the ball out of the lot against Preller, of Brooklyn, and Rees Williams, of the Cardinals.

**Heinie Won This Race, but It Was at First Base**

ALL players had to play many parts last season when the regulars departed for the army or shipyards. It was necessary to make many changes, so it is not at all surprising to see Helene Zimmerman heading the list as the best first baseman. Heinie played in nineteen games at the initial sack and made but one error, getting an average of .995. Ed Konetchy, of Boston, however, was the real leader, appearing in 112 games and finishing with .992. Daubert was second, Merle third and Luderus sixth.

The real all-around athlete, however, was Paulette, of the Cardinals. This person was named by Fielder Jones once because the manager of the Browns said he didn't know enough baseball. He was picked up by the Cards and showed such a knowledge of the game that he made good in any position. His 1918 record should stand for some time, for he played ninety-seven games at first base, seven at second-base, twelve at short-stop, two at third base, five in the outfield and pitched one game. In addition to that, Paulette was ready to take his place behind the bat when needed. Mike Gonzales, of the Cards, played five games in the outfield when relieved as a catcher.

Fred Luderus led the first basemen with assists, gathering ninety-eight. Merle had the most put-outs, 1288, and accepted the greatest number of chances, 1470. Fisher, of St. Louis, was the leading second baseman; Fletcher, of the Giants, topped the shortstops, and Heine Grob was the best third baseman. Bancroft, of the Phils, led the league in making errors, piling up sixty-four without the least trouble. However, he accepted the greatest number of chances. Eddie Burns is listed as the best fielding catcher.

JACK COOMBS, one new manager, played thirteen games in the outfield for Brooklyn. The leading outfields were Neale, Christians, Parker, Chicago, and Zack Wheat, Brooklyn. Max Clegg accepted 424 chances, which is a league record.

**Pot Moran Will Be Invaluable to Giants**

IT MUST be a great thing for a baseball manager to have a large enough bankroll at his disposal to grab talent on the fly without first going into executive session with the owners. John J. McGraw was in that very position at the National League meeting in New York last month, and deep when he learned that Pat Moran had been fired by the Phils to finance directly looked him up.

"Tough luck, Pat," said McGraw, "but don't worry. There's a job waiting for you with my crew any time you want it, and the salary is \$5000 a year. You can sign now or take a month or so to think it over."

Pat thought it over and yesterday became a member of the Giants in the capacity of assistant manager and coach of the pitchers and catchers. Moran virtually was signed in December, for he appreciated McGraw's offer and determined to accept and make good.

Moran is a big asset to any ball club, anyone will be invaluable to the Giants. He has an uncanny knack of developing battery men, and that's what McGraw needs. He will take Barnes, Terrell, Schupp, Casey and the other pitchers in hand and teach them enough to make them top-notchers. And when it comes to coaching catchers—well, Pat is in a class by himself. He developed Bill Klem, the leading backstop of the land, and made good receivers of Eddie Burns and Jack Adams.

With Pat on the job to put in his say now and then the Giants have a good chance to cop the pennant this season. He knows inside baseball, can swipe signals from any club and give the men signs until sometimes cannot be detected by themselves.

**The McGraw-Moran combination will be a hard one to beat in the National League this year.**

**Magnates Should Not Chance Training at Home**

AS WAS stated in this column last Monday, the major leagues will open the 1919 baseball season on April 25 and close on September 30. This was officially announced yesterday by President Boller, of the National League. The only thing left to be done is the bifurcation of both leagues at the joint meeting on January 16, and no trouble is expected from that source. Nothing was said about the 96-game schedule, but it looks as if that would be the number of games on the docket.

Now comes the big question about spring training trips. Can big league ball players get into condition on the home grounds, when the weather is raw and cold and rain or snow is likely to interfere with the practice any day? Is it worth the money which can be saved to take a chance on inclement weather and starting the season against well-trained clubs fresh from the South? To us it looks like a sucker play on the part of the home trainers, unless they wish to guarantee the fans that their teams will finish as close to the bottom of the league as possible. It will be a costly experiment, and we will have a chance to see how it works in our own city.

Baseball is due for a big boom this year, and the magnates should look and loosen. It will be another case of penny wise and pound foolish, for the fans are not going to spend real money to look at a ball team that can go at top speed for only three or four innings. The home town boys will not have a Chinaman's chance against the other clubs until they get thawed out around July 4.

Clark Griffith learned his lesson, and you probably noticed he is bound for the sunny South this year. He once trained at Charlottesville, Va., which is only a short distance from Washington, and always managed to get off to a bum start. When he went further South his club began to play better baseball.

IT WOULD not be at all surprising to see the Giants in St. Petersburg, Fla., this year. This is considered the best training spot in the country, but was given up by the Phils this year. Pat Moran knows what can be done down there and probably will talk McGraw into making the trip.



### POOR PLAYING IN FINAL GAMES

Yours Truly and Hancock Both Win, but Their Playing Is Ragged

SMALL CROWD ATTENDS

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE STANDING

W.	L.	P%	S.P.H.A.	W.L.F.C.
6	1	.853	Atlanta	3 1 .429
5	2	.750	Baltimore	3 2 .500
5	3	.571	Mobile	3 3 .333
5	4	.500	St. Louis	3 4 .250

#### SCHEDULE FOR SATURDAY

Hancock vs. Yours Truly.

It's now up to Hancock and Yours Truly to decide which is the best team to the first half of the American League pennant race, and this question will be settled on Saturday evening, when the clash. Both were successful in their closing contests of the half last evening, the former defeating Wilbur, 36 to 29, and the latter defeating Vittorio, 26 to 14.

The names were devoid of any interest, and this fact was not considering the importance attached to them. The two teams were evenly matched the result being a tie, and were unable to break two points from each other at that time. They committed all the sins of omission and commission known in the game, and then the stadium came to their senses and before the affair was over had nearly equalized their record made the tie.

Both had bad leadership were seen in spots and there was little to choose at times between either of the contestants. For the first half, however, the two teams were evenly matched, and each was able to break two points from each other at that time. They committed all the sins of omission and commission known in the game, and then the stadium came to their senses and before the affair was over had nearly equalized their record made the tie.

The two teams were evenly matched the help of professional instruction, bows by men such as Vardon, Taylor and Tracy into membership. These three men are a great asset, and could be studied to advantage. Take the ad-

vise of these foremost professionals, point by point, and practice each until you feel it has been mastered. Do it indoors if you can't outdoors.

Use Evans' Plan

You can improve your game amazingly by this method. If you facilities for playing indoor golf are available, why not try the plan that I used so successfully years ago? I believe I have spoken of this before. It warrants repetition, however.

Get me old masters from somewhere. Set me up as target down in the room, and then practice with them. If you have a golf course nearby, it will not only keep you in shape, but also serve to improve your form and develop accuracy.

You can improve this by painting on the matress a bull's eye, with various broad strokes above it, to represent your matress loose and pliable, but also serve to improve your form and develop accuracy.

The beginner removed from the

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